



## NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH WINDS DOWN BUT SECURING PERMANENCY FOR CHILDREN HAPPENS ALL YEAR LONG



The excitement lingers after a successful Adoption Day on November 19. Yet, hundreds of children in South Carolina are still awaiting a 'forever family,' and the work involved in securing these families continues. Again, a huge thanks is extended to all the adoption workers and supervisors, paralegals, attorneys and everyone involved in creating forever families. The impact you make on families across this state is astounding. DSS is also fortunate to have the support of foster and adoptive parents in helping provide encouragement and guidance to

families going through the process. We are also grateful for the support from local media. As mentioned in other E-Blasts, WIS-TV in Columbia spotlights a child(ren) each month who are currently waiting for a permanent family. Last week, Judi Gatson spoke to Region 2 Adoption Supervisor,

**Nicole McCreary** (left) about what is involved in the adoption process. Be sure to watch *A Family for Life* and share the stories of these amazing children with family and friends! <http://www.wistv.com/community/family-for-life/>

Don't forget to visit our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/SouthCarolinaDSS/?ref=bookmarks> and Twitter [https://twitter.com/SC\\_DSS](https://twitter.com/SC_DSS) for more images and articles on Adoption Day!



## LOWE ADDRESSES NATIONAL BOARD

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) held its Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly in San Antonio, Texas, on Nov. 15-17, 2018. Jacqueline Lowe, Chairperson for the Regulation and Standards Committee, presented the committee's recommendations and report. There were member boards from US and Canada that accounted for more than 100 attendees. Jacqueline is also a member of the South Carolina Board of Social Work Examiners. She works at State Office and is Director of Foster Family Licensing and Support, and Child Placing Agency Licensing and Group Home Licensing.

## FROM THE DIVISION OF CHILD WELFARE

The following links are offered as information to child welfare workers.

Families Safety and Support – during home visits staff can share this information with families

- [Holiday Safety](#)
- [Behavior Challenges during the Holidays](#)
- [Reduce Stress to Prevent Child Abuse During Holidays](#)





## RECENT LUNCH AND LEARN PROVIDES TIPS ON HEALTHY HOLIDAY EATING

Tips on healthy eating during the

holidays were recently shared at a Lunch and Learn in Columbia. Staff learned the importance of watching our intake of calories and carbs, especially during this time of year. The presentation was given by Leighton Norvell, MPH - Diabetes Prevention Program Coordinator for Palmetto Health Office of Community Health in Columbia. Attached to this E-blast are tips and links for exchanging traditional holiday ingredients with healthier choices. Many hospitals across the state offer free smoking cessation programs, as well as diabetes and hypertension risk assessment programs. Many are offered free of charge. Visit this site to find a program near you:

[https://nccd.cdc.gov/DDT DPRP/Programs.aspx](https://nccd.cdc.gov/DDT_DPRP/Programs.aspx)



Norvell

## South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week

Gov. Henry McMaster has proclaimed the week of Dec 2-8, 2018, as South Carolina Winter Weather Preparedness Week, according to the SC Emergency Management Division. Visit this SCEMD [www.scemd.org](http://www.scemd.org) website for information on how to stay safe.

## BE CYBER AWARE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

As the holidays draw near, many consumers turn to the internet to shop for goods and services. Although online shopping can offer convenience and save time, shoppers should be cautious online and protect personal information against identity theft. Identity thieves steal personal information, such as a credit card number, and run up bills in the victim's name.

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) encourages consumers to review the following tips to help reduce the risk of falling prey to identity theft:

- [Preventing and Responding to Identity Theft](#)
- [Shopping Safely Online](#)
- [Avoiding Social Engineering and Phishing Attacks](#)
- If you believe you are a victim of identity theft, visit the FTC's [identity theft website](#) to file a report and create a personal recovery plan.



**CORRECTION:** In the recent *One Voice*, York County Director **Laura Wasson** is listed among those who were already with the agency. Laura joins team DSS from North Carolina. Welcome!

HAVE A GREAT WEEK!



Laura Wasson

